

# MARY HARTMAN MARY HARTMAN

EPISODE #168

by

Peggy Goldman

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FINAL DRAFT  
9/27/76



CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARY. . . . .	LOUISE LASSER
TOM . . . . .	GREG MULLAVEY
CATHY . . . . .	DEBRALEE SCOTT
HEATHER . . . . .	CLAUDIA LAMB
ANNIE WYLIE (TIPPYTOES) . . . . .	GLORIA DeHAVEN
MERLE JEETER. . . . .	DABNEY COLEMAN
BRIAN ADDAMS. . . . .	JOHN FINK
CB VOICE OF BIG HONEY . . . . .	IRIS KORN

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ACT ONEMARY'S KITCHEN, MORNING (NEW DAY)

MARY IS MAKING BREAKFAST -- MUFFINS  
IN THE OVEN, BACON AND EGGS ON THE  
STOVE. TOM ENTERS.

TOM

Smells good. What's the occasion?

MARY

Well, I'm just trying out that new,  
no-stick, no-splatter cookware I bought  
from Exxon.

TOM

You mean the gas station?

MARY

It was an offer that came with the credit  
card statement.

TOM

A whole set?

MARY

(NODDING) Well, you told me to buy  
myself a present after you bought the  
CB for Heather.

TOM

Oh, that. But I meant something fun.  
Like a new hat.

MARY

Tom, I don't even have an old hat.  
Besides, I'm having a lot of fun with  
this. It's called Willow Fantasy. In  
gold. It was also available in avocado  
and white. But I thought to go with  
the kitchen -- the only problem is it  
looks smaller than it did in the ad.  
The bacon won't fit on the griddle.  
Maybe we have big bacon. And it does  
spatter. Not a lot, but it does spatter.  
(PUTS HER HAND TO MOUTH AFTER BEING  
BURNED BY POPPING GREASE) Tom?

TOM

(DOWNING JUICE AND READING PAPER) Yeah?

MARY

You were wonderful last night.

TOM

(REMEMBERING) What do you mean? We just  
went to sleep last night.

MARY

I know. That's what was wonderful. That  
you could just come home and fall asleep  
without even speaking to me. After what  
I said at the Capri Lounge.

TOM

Well, I did feel sort of stupid with you  
telling all our friends Cathy was having  
our baby.



MARY

I tried to tell you in bed the night before, honestly, but you had something else on your mind, and so I thought I'd wait for a more graceful opportunity.

TOM

Like making a baby of our own!

MARY

Is that really what you were thinking? Oh, Tom, is that why you were wonderful the night before last? Not that you're not always wonderful --

TOM

Yeah, that was why. And it's too bad; we could have made a terrific baby that night.

MARY

(CHECKING OVEN) If we had a microwave oven.

TOM

Hunh?

MARY

We'd be done eating by now. I'm sorry. My mind was wandering. But Cathy's baby will be terrific, too. Like Garth and Pat and everybody said --

TOM

I felt like a fool.

MARY

But you didn't act like one. I mean, it was all my fault, and after the Coke you spilled you were fine.

TOM

I guess I was kinda surprised.

MARY

And disappointed, but strong, even when Garth kept urging you to drown your sorrows. I was so proud of you I could have cried. (SHE DOES -- SPLATTERED AGAIN BY GREASE)

TOM

I thought that stuff was non-splatter?

MARY

I'm not doing it right. (CHECKS INSTRUCTIONS) Ohhh. I should have soaked them all in tepid, soapy water first. I hope the other things come out right. What's bacon cured of?

TOM

I don't know. Swine flu.

MARY

Whatever it is, it doesn't stop it from shrinking. Everything's almost ready. I guess the griddle is the right size.

(MORE)



MARY (CONT'D)

(TAKES PITIFULLY SMALL PIECES OF CHARRED BACON FROM PAN AND DRAINS) And don't the eggs look good? (TRIES TO SERVE THEM, BUT THEY STICK TO THE PAN)

HEATHER ENTERS.

HEATHER

Morning. What's for breakfast?

MARY

(SCRAPING THE EGGS INTO A BOWL) I'm trying out my new, no-stick, no-splatter cookware.

HEATHER

Yeh -- but what's for breakfast?

MARY

Actually, as I was looking at it, I realized this is a terrible meal --

TOM

What are you talking about?

MARY

Cholesterol. We've already had our eggs for the week. I'm going to put this aside until it's leftovers, then I'll be able to use my "Leftovers Cook Book". But for now we're just having some delicious whole wheat muffins.

TOM

Still sounds pretty good. What else?

MARY

(GETTING THEM FROM OVEN) And coffee.

Mmm mmm. (TURNS OVER PAN -- THEY ALL  
STICK) Of course, on the other hand, I  
know how Heather has been trying to stick  
to natural foods. So maybe we'd be better  
off having something natural.

HEATHER

Whole wheat muffins are very natural.

MARY

No. No they're not, Tom. Not these  
muffins. They're from a mix. Very  
unnatural. Here, have some 100% cereal.

HEATHER

Rice Krispies?

MARY

They're 100% natural Rice Krispies. Just  
eat them, Heather. Your father and I  
have something to discuss.

TOM

You're nervous, Mary.

MARY

Anxious. Because I don't know how you're  
going to react after your reaction last  
night which was just surprise and  
disappointment and then we didn't talk  
about it any more.

TOM

Talk about what?



MARY

Cathy's baby, Tom. You said you wanted another child.

TOM

I do.

HEATHER

Oh, boy! You're going to have another kid? That's terrific.

MARY

Well, actually, we were thinking of adopting Cathy's baby.

TOM

Your mother was thinking of adopting Cathy's baby.

HEATHER

That's even better. Trudy's mother was a real drag when she was pregnant. It was a mistake and they were going to sue the pill company. But this way we get the baby and you don't have to spend nine Months throwing up.

MARY

Then you like the idea?

HEATHER

Oh, sure I do. I've been worrying about what you two will do without me, since it won't be long before I'm grown up and leaving.

(MORE)

HEATHER (CONT'D)

This way you'll have something to keep you busy -- keep you company in your old age. The best I could come up with was a puppy.

MARY

What do you mean, leaving home?

HEATHER

Well, face it, I'm almost old enough to be having a baby myself. Physically speaking.

TOM

Heather, physically speaking, you're barely old enough for a training bra.

MARY

Let's not have any physical speaking talk at the table, please. We'll discuss all that later. Even though it will be good for Heather. She'll be able to help out and learn.

TOM

I don't see why she couldn't help with a baby of our own.

HEATHER

I don't see why you should wait nine months for something you can have in just five. You're not getting any younger, you know.



MARY

Right. Absolutely right. You're really growing up. And there are lots of other reasons to adopt Cathy's baby, too.

TOM

Like what? We're not so over the hill we can't have a baby of our own.

MARY

We're not so over the hill we have to rush it, either. I mean -- we should think about the population explosion. I've learned my lesson about explosions. They should be stopped; or else what about the future? I'm something of an authority on explosions. After all, didn't I virtually save Ohio?

TOM

Not that again?

HEATHER

Is she going back to the hospital?

MARY

"She" is just trying to show you that it's our responsibility to humanity, Heather, to concern ourselves with babies that are already on the way, before we start making more.

HEATHER

Or they'll all go on welfare and pollute the air.

MARY

Oh, you are so grown up, Heather. Look at how smart and grown up she is, Tom. We must have done something very right. We should keep at it. And think how much better we can do if I don't have to be tired and worn out when the baby is born. Not to mention that we won't have to miss out on anything for that last six weeks. I mean, we won't have to worry about my getting plenty of sleep, or anything.

(WINKS)

TOM

(THE FIRST ARGUMENT HE'S LIKED) Well...

MARY

(MOVING IN FOR THE KILL) And if you really still want a baby of our own, even after we have two, which is plenty for anyone. Well, we can worry about it later.

TOM

(BEGINNING TO RELENT) Maybe, I guess.

MARY

After all, we are entitled to two point seven. We can look on this as our point seven child. Of course, after thirteen years, I'll probably need a little brushing up.



HEATHER

And if I have a baby at sixteen, they can be like brother and sister.

TOM

Heather, would you please stop making it sound like you're ready to leave home and get married.

HEATHER

Who said anything about getting married? Hey, maybe if I can practice at home, I won't have to take those dumb classes at school.

MARY

You see, Tom, all sorts of benefits. A refresher course for me and an introductory lesson for Heather. And if something goes wrong, it won't be so terrible. We may decide to have another of our own. Or, if we don't want to (SHE DOESN'T), then we'll just wait to be grandparents. (TO HEATHER) But, we'll wait. There's absolutely no need to rush.

TOM

You both really want to take Cathy's kid?

MARY/HEATHER

Yes! Please?

TOM

Well, I guess it'll be alright. But, Mary, you'd better figure out with your sister how it'll be after the baby is born. If we're going to take the child, I want it to be ours.

MARY

Oh, I'll work it out. Don't worry.  
Thank you, Tom.

TOM

You really want this, huh? (PERKING UP)  
Well, fine, Me, too.

HEATHER

Yippee! This is even better than a ten speed bike. Of course, both would be great.

MARY

Your old bike is fine. By the way, after school, maybe we should talk about some of that physical stuff.

TOM

I hope it's a boy.

HEATHER

What's wrong with girls?

TOM

(HUGGING HER) I haven't anything against girls. But boys are nice, too, aren't they?



HEATHER

(FLIRTATIOUS) Well, some are.

MARY

Heather, we'll talk right after school.

HEATHER

(TO TOM) You sound like you like the idea after all.

TOM

It's growing on me.

MARY

Then I'll go see Cathy today to tell her the good news. And you two had better get going. Have good days. I mean, each of you have a good day. (AS THEY EXIT)  
As soon as I've cleaned up in here, I'll go tell her. I mean, ask her. I mean, talk to her. That's it -- we'll talk

SHE SURVEYS THE MESS FROM BREAKFAST, STACKS ALL THE NEW COOKWARE -- STUCK AND SPLATTERED -- and STARES AT IT. SHE MAKES A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO CLEAN OFF WHAT IS CLEARLY PERMANENTLY STUCK, CHUCKS IT IN THE GARBAGE, TAKES OFF HER APRON, AND EXITS INTO THE LIVING ROOM, AS WE --

FADE OUT.

ACT TWOTIPPYTOES' TRAILER, SIMULTANEOUSLY

ANNIE IS AT THE OPEN FRIDGE, BLOCKING  
VIEW OF MERLE WHO IS DRESSING IN THE  
BEDROOM. SAME CLOTHES AS AT CAPRI.

ANNIE

Tomato juice?

MERLE

(IGNORES THIS. MOVES ON TO A PROVEN PLOY  
-- THE CONFESSIONAL THAT WON WANDA'S HEART)  
Oh, Lord -- I've succumbed again to the  
desires of the flesh.

ANNIE

Oh, Lord -- wasn't it wonderful!

MARLE

You mean you're not going to judge me for  
my lascivious ways?

ANNIE

I just did. I said you were wonderful.

MERLE

(A LITTLE THROWN) But you don't understand.  
I'm a sinner. How can a decent woman like  
you bear to be with me and my shame. My  
life is just one long string of...



ANNIE

(INTERRUPTING) Pointless infidelities, Merle. I'm sure that's really very interesting. To someone. But if you have to get off on mea culpa-type confession scenes, find yourself a priest.

MERLE

Hunh?

ANNIE

Look, you haven't done anything terrible to me and I don't think I've done anything terrible to you so don't feel the need to apologize to anyone for anything. We had a pleasant night. Period. Let's just leave it at that.

MERLE

Are you a Christian?

ANNIE

First Presbyterian Bible school till the age of eight, when I told my mother I'd prefer tap lessons.

MERLE

Then you'll want to hear all the sleazy, slimy details of my carnal and lustful past?

ANNIE

To tell the truth, Merle, no.

MERLE

(CRESTFALLEN) Not even the part about how I found God in some religious literature at a bus stop just outside Chicago?

ANNIE

Not unless it has a tap number in it.

MERLE

(DISARMED) Good God, woman, what kind of Jezebel are you?

ANNIE

One who had a lovely evening instead of a lonely night with a very attractive man who I hope can say the same. Now, how about some grapefruit? Unsweetened. You can suffer while you eat.

MERLE

I would say you're makin' fun of me, but I'm partial to grapefruit.

CB VOICE - BIG HONEY

(COMES OVER THE RADIO, LOW AND SEXY)  
Breaker Two One for Tippytoes. This is KTV1170, known as Big Honey. You have your ears on, darling?

ANNIE

(FIXING BREAKFAST) Merle, that's a call for me. Could you take it, please?

MERLE

Sure, except I don't know how to work these things.

ANNIE

Just key the mike -- push the button to talk.

MERLE

(INTO MIKE) Hello. This is Merle Jeeter for Tippytoes. What's your call?

ANNIE

KRM2590. (THIS LOUD)

MERLE

She's busy right now. May I take a message?

HONEY

Oh, hi there, Merle. My handle's Big Honey, and I do love to hear an X-rated male voice.

MERLE

Why, thank you -- but I'm deep into repentance this a.m.

HONEY

Look, sweetheart, could you please tell Tippytoes that I just picked up a ten five from route three two? A four wheeler's buying an orchard at mile marker two six. And there's an ulcer brewing.

MERLE

(BEWILDERED, LOOKS TO ANNIE WHO NODS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT) Will do.

HONEY

Thanks, love. You're a sweetheart. Look forward to modulating with you again.



MERLE

Me, too. And real soon.

HONEY

Ten-Four. (AND THIS SIGNS OFF)

MERLE

Bye. (CLICKS OFF) Wow. That lady sure has a real provocative-type voice, there, now don't she? Or does that radio talk make everyone sound like that?

ANNIE

Sexy? No, I guess she does have a "unique sound."

MERLE

(SITTING DOWN) Unique, hell. That's the kind of voice some men might dream about, coming at 'em in the night. (CATCHING HIMSELF DROOLING) Not that I could get all caught up in just a voice.

ANNIE

(AMUSED) Of course not. Except that I was thinkin' --

MERLE

Yeah?

ANNIE

That if you want to meet the woman that goes with that voice -- I might try to fix you up.

MERLE

You could really do that? I mean, you would? You'd set me up with another woman?

ANNIE

No, you'd have to set yourself up, like a big boy, but if you'd like an introduction, I could do that. I mean, if you were turned on, then I think you should meet her. Life is too short to pass up chances. Besides, she might like confessions.

MERLE

(EMBARRASSED) Well, I don't know. I'll think about it. (BEAT) You sure are one helluva strange lady.

ANNIE

As someone very wise once said, maybe Emerson: different strokes for different folks.

TOM ENTERS.

TOM

Hiya, Tippytoes. (GETTING IN, SEES MERLE)  
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to barge in.

MERLE

That's okay, Tom. I was just leaving.  
(QUICKLY GRABS TIE AND JACKET) I'll call you, Annie.

ANNIE

Only if you want to. Bye, Merle.

HE EXITS.

ANNIE (CONT'S)

Morning, Tom. Want some grapefruit?

Merle hardly touched his.

TOM

(CONFUSED) Huh? Oh, no, thanks, I already ate. I'm sorry about breaking up your... I mean, I just stopped by to thank you for last night.

ANNIE

You're welcome. What did I do for you last night?

TOM

I didn't mean anything like that. I just meant the way you helped me not get drunk.

ANNIE

Glad to do it.

HONEY'S VOICE

(RETURNING WITH HER HALF OF A CONVERSATION)

Breaker Two One for Steamer. This is KTV1170, Big Honey.

TOM

What's that?

ANNIE

The CB. You sure you don't want to sit for a minute? Did you and Mary get everything sorted out?

TOM

Yeh, we've decided to adopt Cathy's kid.



HONEY

It was so hot here last night, I thought the automatic sprinklers would go on.

TOM

Who's she talking to?

ANNIE

I don't know; sometimes you're only in range of half a conversation. (BEAT) Tom, are you disturbed about something?

TOM

I guess I'm a little thrown off, finding Merle here. I thought you were my buddy.

ANNIE

I am. Are you jealous of Merle? Because what we are is definitely not buddies.

TOM

Wasn't that the same tie he had on last night?

ANNIE

Tom, he hardly had a chance to change. Merle spent the night here.

TOM

Well, I guess it's none of my business.

ANNIE

Why not? We're buddies.

TOM

Well, I guess it just surprises me. I wouldn't have thought that Merle was your type.

HONEY

(LOW HUSKY VOICE) Well, in that case I  
guess I'll just have to read myself to sleep.  
Ten ten 'til we do it again! (THIS SIGNS  
HER OFF)

TOM

That's really quite a voice.

ANNIE

That's the general concensus. You're shocked  
at me, aren't you, Tom?

TOM

Well...

ANNIE

Let me ask you something -- what does it  
mean to you to be "a buddy"?

TOM

Well, you know, a pal. Someone who's there  
when you need him. Or her. Or she needs  
you.

ANNIE

Good, because for a second there I was  
worried that you thought it was just  
somebody to raise hands with when they blow  
the whistle at the swimming pool. You  
have other buddies, don't you?

TOM

Yeh, sure.

ANNIE

And if you walked in on one of them with somebody after a night together, would you be shocked?

TOM

No. But they're all guys. And you kinda wanna look after a woman.

ANNIE

Thank you -- I appreciate that, but that's just the point. I want you to think of me as one of the guys. Does that make any sense to you?

TOM

Sure. I guess I just have trouble getting used to the idea that a "good" woman does it for, well, you know.

ANNIE

You mean just for the fun of it? Without falling in love and making promises?

TOM

Well, yeh -- I mean I know a man can be with a woman and it doesn't have to mean a thing... I mean to him...

ANNIE

No more romantic than a sneeze -- right?

TOM

Well, maybe a little more romantic than that, but I thought for a woman it had to be a lot more romantic.



ANNIE

Not necessarily. Sometimes a woman is in the mood for romance and sometimes she's just in the mood for a man and sometimes she'll settle for any man.

TOM

Well, you must not have been feeling particular last night. Can I tell you one thing, as a buddy?

ANNIE

Sure.

TOM

Watch out for Merle. Nothing personal, but he goes after anything in skirts. (SHE'S IN JEANS) And at least half of anything in pants. If you get my meaning.

ANNIE

You don't have to warn me about Merle, Tom. And you're wrong about last night -- I was being very particular. I chose Merle quite deliberately. He's just the kind of person I need in my life right now. Someone who's that in love with himself isn't going to make the mistake of falling in love with me.

TOM

But you're a wonderful woman! Why don't you want a man to fall in love with you?

ANNIE

I told you, Tom. I can't handle anybody  
leaning on me right now.

TOM

Oh, you mean because you're...

ANNIE

Movin' on. Yeh.

FADE OUT.

ACT THREEADDAMS' ATTIC ROOM, NOONISH

BRIAN ENTERS, ESCORTING MARY. THE ROOM IS STILL A HOVEL, BUT THERE ARE FABRIC SAMPLES STREWN ABOUT.

BRIAN

Well, Mrs. Hartman, here we are. But it would appear Cathy isn't, at the moment.

MARY

You mean, she's allowed to leave her room?

BRIAN

Of course she is -- as long as the light is green.

MARY

Is that a jet-set expression?

BRIAN

Not that I know of. I got it from my mother when she taught me how to cross the street.

MARY

(TRYING TO MAKE CONVERSATION. SHE DOESN'T REALIZE WHO BRIAN IS, EXACTLY) But you are one of the beautiful people?



BRIAN

I beg your pardon?

MARY

What I mean is, do you know Truman Capote?  
Or Princess Radzwill? I guess she's still  
a Princess, even though she is divorced.  
Or maybe not.

BRIAN

No.

MARY

No, what?

BRIAN

I don't know either one. Do you?

MARY

No. But I know Gore Vidal.

BRIAN

You do? What's he like?

MARY

Well, slimmer than he thinks he is, and  
terrifically youthful for a man who goes  
back almost as far as Nixon.

BRIAN

Where did you go to school, Mrs. Hartman?

MARY

Fernwood High. Why?

BRIAN

No, I meant... Oh, I'm sorry.

MARY

You were thinking college --

BRIAN

Obviously not Smith, but maybe Reed or  
Steven's...

MARY

What about you?

BRIAN

Princeton.

MARY

Oh, that's supposed to be a very good  
school. What did you study?

BRIAN

Greek and Latin. To get back at my  
father who wanted me to take up accounting.

MARY

But what can you do with Greek or Latin?  
Besides write prescriptions and go to Greece.

BRIAN

I can't even do that. It was classical  
Greek. No one in modern Greece would  
understand me. I guess I'll just have to  
wait for somebody to devise a method for  
traveling back in time. I'll probably  
have a great future in the past.

MARY

But, meanwhile, I mean, what are you  
going to do meanwhile?

BRIAN

Nothing.

MARY

Well, it's very becoming. And if you did something you might not have time to do nothing. And this way you certainly have time to get plenty of sun and rest. You look very tan and rested.

BRIAN

Of course, in a few months I should have plenty to do to keep me busy.

MARY

You're getting a job?

BRIAN

No, being a father.

MARY

Oh. I mean, I know lots of people who have children and work. Most in fact.

BRIAN

Yes, but my wife and I have a very modern marriage. We share in everything equally -- the household duties, the bookkeeping, her allowance. We'll also share the responsibilities of the child, I wouldn't have it any other way.

MARY

Can I ask you a question?

BRIAN

Of course.



MARY

How can you?

BRIAN

How can I what?

MARY

Buy a baby.

BRIAN

That's not a subtle question, Mrs.

Hartman, but I'll give you a subtle answer.

MARY

I mean, that's so low. For an ivy-leaguer. I mean, even George Hamilton in "Where The Boys Are" wouldn't have done that. And he was almost responsible for Yvette Mimieax's death. Of course, the rumor was that President Johnson never really liked him anyway.

BRIAN

All it took, Mrs. Hartman, was your sister's agreement and a very small dip into capital. Everything is signed and sealed. All we're waiting for is delivery.

MARY

That's despicable. I mean, how can you talk about my sister and her baby as if they were furniture you just ordered? They're people. I mean, maybe those Greeks and Latins...

BRIAN

Romans.

MARY

What Romans?

BRIAN

The people who spoke Latin were the ancient Romans.

MARY

Well, just remember what they always say, 'when in Rome, do as the Romans do". Which means, also, that when you are in Fernwood Ohio you should do as the Fernwoodians do -- which is have your own babies, not my sister's, which I have decided to take.

BRIAN

Isn't that Cathy's decision to make?

MARY

It certainly is. If you'd let me see her. Where are you really keeping her? Where is she?

BRIAN

I'll check. (PICKS UP PHONE AND BUZZES)  
Mrs. Denvers? Have you seen Miss Shumway?  
She has a...

CATHY ENTERS.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

... Nevermind, here she is now. (HANGS UP)  
Hia, Cath. You have a visitor.

MARY

Cathy, are you alright? You look pale. Wan.  
Have they been starving you?

CATHY

No, Mary. I'm fine, thanks. How're you?

MARY

Oh, Cathy, Cathy, Cathy...

BRIAN

Well, I guess I'll just leave you two alone. I'll see you for lunch, Cathy. Are you staying, Mrs. Hartman?

MARY

I wouldn't count on either of us, but chicken salad'll be fine.

BRIAN

Each, why don't you just call Mrs. Denvers when you two have decided on your plans.

CATHY

Fine, Brian. See you.

HE EXITS.

MARY

He's gone now, you can tell me the truth. How are you? Oh, you look so pale. So wan.

CATHY

I'm fine, Mary. Really.

MARY

(LOOKING HER OVER - SHE'S LOOKING TERRIFIC)

All right, so you're not pale. Or wan. You look terrific. But you don't look yourself.



CATHY

Of course not. I'm pregnant.

MARY

Is the room bugged? Is that the problem?

We could write on a pad or use sign language. You remember, from Steve?

CATHY

What are you talking about? Why should the room be bugged?

MARY

Don't tell me. They're drugging you? But it's going to be alright, I'll get you out of here and we'll have your system cleared out by Dr. Fermin in no time. I promise you, Cathy, it'll all be over in just a little while. Are we going to have a hard time getting past the butler or what?

CATHY

Mary, you're the one who's not making sense. Nobody's holding me here.

MARY

It's just like what Alicia and Morgan Hughes did to poor Sandy Kelly on Hope for Tomorrow.

CATHY

No it isn't. The Hughes were keeping Sandy locked up in that little room in the cellar for her money. The Addams' certainly don't want my money, and I can go anywhere in the house or out as long as the green light is on.

MARY

That must be a brainwashing term. He said it when I first came in.

CATHY

Look -- here's a signal board to let me know when the coast is clear in different parts of the house. I promise you, Mary, I'm not being forced to do anything.

MARY

Except give up your baby to strangers.

CATHY

We've been through all this before. I don't want to discuss it any more.

MARY

But I have a new solution. Not a \$20,000 dollar solution, but a solution. Tom and I have decided to adopt your baby, ourselves.

CATHY

You've what?

MARY

I knew you'd be excited. We're going to take the baby. You won't really be losing a child, you'll be gaining a nephew.

CATHY

Or niece.

MARY

That's right. Isn't it wonderful?

CATHY

Thanks, Mary. But...

MARY

No buts. You don't have to be afraid of them. I'll get you out of here. And if they dare to come after you, I'll have Detective Johnson investigate their non-floating debentures. That's a term I heard on educational television when the knob got stuck.

CATHY

Mary, please, will you leave the police out of this? And, no offense, but would you stay out of it, too.

MARY

Me? How can I stay out of it if Tom and I are going to adopt the baby. Heather was so excited. And so was Tom.

CATHY

Well, thanks anyway, Mary, but no thanks. If you and Tom and Heather want another child so much, why don't you have one of your own. Or, of course, you could always buy one.

MARY

That's not funny. What have they been doing to you? I really think they've done something to you. Have they been feeding you anything strange?



CATHY

(YUMMY) Quiche and caviar and oysters and...

MARY

Raw oysters?

CATHY

They were fabulous. Maybe we can have some for lunch? Are you staying?

MARY

Ahaa. I knew it. I've read that raw oysters have some very mysterious powers. They're getting to you through your diet.

CATHY

Would you believe me -- they're not getting to me through anything. They couldn't be nicer. Look, I've even got a new project.  
(INDICATES SWATCHES)

MARY

It's like a Grimms' fairy tale. You're trapped up here and they're making you put together a patchwork quilt out of strange fabrics. "The Patchwork Princess". Oh, they're horrible, Cathy. Don't look at the Queen of Spades. If they take out a pack of cards -- run. That's what they used to make Laurence Harvey murder his mother in "The Manchurian Candidate".

CATHY

Mary, this isn't Manchuria. It's Fernwood. And these are samples for me to choose from. I'm getting all new furniture. We were going to special order things but the waiting time was so long that Christine decided to just get some ready-made. But I still have to figure out what to do about the curtains and bedspread. The thing is, do you like prints with prints? Or should I pick out a color from the print and do everything else in solids?

MARY

How should I know. Why don't you write to Vogue's furniture editor if you want to know that kind of thing. What's more important to you? Your decor or your child's future?

CATHY

Honestly? It's the same thing, Mary. I really want to thank you and Tom for thinking of me and the baby. I'm very grateful, really. But while I'm here, and for the child's whole life, this is a better home. Any child who grows up here won't have to waste time writing to magazines or advice columns. Christine and Brian have everything. Even all the answers. (PHONE RINGS AND CATHY ANSWERS)

(MORE)

CATHY (CONT'D)

Hello? Hold on a second. Mary? Are you staying for lunch?

MARY

(DEJECTED) What are you having?

CATHY

(TO PHONE) What are we having? (TO MARY)

Soup and salad.

MARY

What could they do to soup and salad?  
Okay, I'll stay. But only if it's  
Campbell's. Nothing with wine. It's  
very easy to disguise the flavor of poison  
with wine. And don't sign anything that  
looks like an insurance policy.

CATHY

Want a Bloody Mary with it?

MARY

Bloody Mary? You know how I hate that  
expression. I've changed my mind. I don't  
want lunch. I'm leaving. Good-bye.

AND SHE EXITS. CATHY STARES AFTER  
HER.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE #168